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Class of 2005

Illinois Wesleyan Names Fourteen Presidential Scholars

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Fourteen first-year students were recognized at Illinois Wesleyan University's President's Convocation Sept. 5 in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall.

The campus-wide event marked the start of IWU's 2001-2002 academic school year.

Established in 1978, the Presidential Scholars' Program recognizes first-year students who have shown excellence both in and out of the classroom, for their past accomplishments and achievements. Selections for the academic honor are based on personal interviews and application materials.

Five first-year Presidential Scholars are also National Merit Scholars.

The 14 scholars averaged 1459 as a group on the combined Scholastic Aptitude Test scores (SAT-I) scores, a major college entrance test with a perfect score of 1600. Last year's class of Presidential Scholars averaged 1450 on the SAT.

Following is a list of the honored scholars in the class of 2005, who plan to major in the fields of English and English-literature, German, psychology, biology, mathematics, art, music, and theatre.

Kathleen Anderson, the daughter of Richard and Lois Anderson, Rt. 1, Box 20M, Calumet, Michigan, is a double major in English literature and theatre arts. She is a graduate of Hancock Central High School.

Krystle Balhan, the daughter of Maurice and Janet Balhan, 13439 W. 185th St., Mokena, Ill., is a psychology major. Balhan is an accomplished ballet dancer and participated in the Appalachian Service Project in Guyan Valley, West Virginia. She is a graduate of Lincoln-Way High School.

Alison Daigle, the daughter of John and Rebecca Daigle, 959 Jameson Way, Westmont, Ill., also a National Merit Scholar, is a music major. An alto sax player, Alison also plays oboe and piano and is a vocalist. In addition to her musical talents, Daigle has been in the cast of several theatre productions. She is a graduate of Hinsdale Central High School.

Megan Drevits, the daughter of David and Patricia Drevits, 1118 Santa Fe, Atchison, Kan., is a music major. A graduate of Atchison High School, she is an accomplished pianist and bassoonist. In addition to her music, in high school Drevits also was active in forensics.

Carolyn Franz, the daughter of Carl and Agnes Franz, 2731 N. Kennicott Ave., Arlington Heights, Ill., is a double major in mathematics and music. She is a violinist, pianist and also does Polynesian dancing. Franz is a graduate of Buffalo Grove High School.

Mahi Garg, the daughter of Tejendra and Nishita Garg, Calcutta, India, is an art major with an emphasis on graphic design. Mahi also has been involved in music and dance activities and was on her school's varsity swim team. She is a graduate of La Martiniere for Girls school.

Claire Hagemann, the daughter of Frederick and Susan Hagemann, 1406 Cedar River Dr., Waverly, Iowa, is a biology major. She plays the alto sax and was involved in school musicals and golf. She is a graduate of Waverly-Shell Rock High School.

Karthik Kakarala, the son of Eswara and Rama Kakarala, 3220 Falcon Point, Springfield, Ill., is a biology major. While in high school, Kakarala was a member of the chess club, which he founded, played varsity tennis and was chief editor for the school newspaper. He also participated in a volunteer work project in Costa Rica. Kakarala is a graduate of Glenwood High School.

Vera Leopold, the daughter of Ronald and Bette Leopold, 2824 Birch Rd., Homewood, Ill., also a National Merit Scholar, will major in English literature. She is a graduate of Homewood-Flossmoor High School where she worked on the staff of her high school literary magazine. Leopold hopes to become an author.

Laura Myford, the daughter of David and Carol Myford, 715 Valley Forge Ave., Lawrenceville, New Jersey, is a German major. Under the auspices of the Congress-Bundestag Scholarship Program, Myford studied in Germany for a year. Her musical talents include both vocal music and the harpsichord. She also has participated in various school theatre productions. Myford is a graduate of Lawrence High School.

Edward Neumann, the son of Edward A. and Mary Ann Neumann, 10 S. Maple Lane, Prospect Heights, Ill., also a National Merit Scholar is a psychology major. A graduate of John Hersey High School, Neumann has been editor of the school newspaper, a Mount Prospect peer juror and a member of the debate team.

Elizabeth Olson, the daughter of Jerald and Peggy Olson, 1698 Siewert St., Red Wing, Minn., also a National Merit Scholar, is a theatre major. Olson, a graduate of Red Wing High School, has participated in many school musicals, speech team and swim team, for which she has been captain.

Emily Richter, the daughter of John and Susan Richter, 517 S. Finley Rd., Lombard, Ill., also a National Merit Scholar, is a biology major with a strong interest in genetics. A graduate of the Illinois Math and Science Academy, she also plays the clarinet.

Megan Thoma, the daughter of Martin and Colleen Thoma, 1325 Paddock Dr., Wheeling, is an English literature major. She is a graduate of Wheeling High School. Her interests in high school included photography, poetry and painting.